

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 18, line 4, and replace as follows:

It is to be appreciated that the optimization parameters, which are used for establishing a parameterized criteria for evaluating the efficiency of a given partition of an application during an automated optimization process, can be specified based on various characteristics associated with a given environment in which the application is deployed, and nothing herein should be construed as placing any limitation on the invention. For example, in one exemplary embodiment, the parameterized criteria (optimization functions) may comprise predefined, objective criteria that consider, for example, network characteristics, conditions, and resources, as well client characteristics and resources. For example, a parameterized criteria can be expressed using a cost function, which provides an objective measure of efficiency of an application based on objective criteria as specified by optimization parameters